

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES**, on February 9, 2001 at 5:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Grimes, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Excused: Sen. John Cobb, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lois Menzies, Legislative Staff
Mary Gay Wells, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 419, 2/14/2001
SR 18, 2/14/2001

Executive Action: SR 18 BA
SB 419 DP

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**Chuckie Cramer, Senate Sergeant-at-arms
Rosana Skelton, Secretary of the Senate**

They presented some issues to the committee for guidelines. The following was recorded at the beginning of the hearing.

CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES opened the hearing and asked **Chuckie Cramer, Senate Sergeant-at-arms**, to address the committee.

Issues that were to be discussed: microphones or free standing microphones; double-dutch doors on offices of Sergeant-at-arms and Secretary of Senate; the Elmo system; parking; and inventory policy.

Chuckie Cramer stated that after transmittal, 317-A, 317-B and 317-C, will be opened up and the microphone systems in there will go back to the House. They have been looking at sound systems that would be versatile enough to be used in other rooms. Room 303 has had a big sound problem. Some have been resolved, but not all. An acoustical engineer needs to study the problem and make recommendations.

SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN suggested that future microphone systems should be handicapped accessible. A portable microphone would be good.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES asked if the committee should authorize the purchase of an acoustical unit.

Ms. Cramer said those particular units run between \$600 and \$800. They would be very good and are on wheels for portability. Cordless microphones are not feasible at this time. She wanted authorization from the committee for the authority to pursue microphone systems, etc.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES declared that this issue was very important and far reaching for future legislatures. It should be done right the first time around.

SEN. WATERMAN said that power point presentations should be kept in mind. This would make the configuration of the podium an issue also.

Ms. Cramer spoke about the double-dutch doors. It will cost \$1850.00 to do all three doors. This will be done over transmittal time. They will take the new doors and re-construct them into double-dutch doors. It will be back-billed to the previous session so **SEN. TOM BECK** would have to sign off on it.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. GRIMES** moved to **AUTHORIZE \$1850 FOR THREE DOUBLE-DUTCH DOORS. Motion carried unanimously.**

Rosanna Skelton, Secretary of the Senate informed the committee that the Elmo system is similar to an overhead. It is in Room

405 and is very expensive. It is not performing well and the Senators are not happy with it. It will not even take an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. It is built into the stack which holds the electronic recording machines in the corner. The sound engineer was here checking it out, and they were told that before he leaves all will be in good working order, etc. The service man said that Elmo is working as good as it can. It is not doing the job. Therefore, they do not want to pay for it and want permission to reject it.

Motion/Vote: SEN. WATERMAN moved TO RETURN THE ELMO SYSTEM AND NOT PAY FOR IT. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cramer informed the committee that the parking situation is under control. They put two large signs in the lot at either end and the complaints have ceased. The Department of Administration has received some complaints about the signs being there, but it is now clear that the parking lot has designated spaces. The Department of Administration is going to give "hangers" to hang on the mirror. Two will be issued per senator. If the hanger is not in the window, the violator will get a \$20 ticket.

Ms. Cramer spoke of the inventory situation. From the last session to this session, everything had to be inventoried that cost over \$2000; i.e. folding tables to chairs, etc. That figure has been upped to \$5000. As a result, the formal inventory would shrink to the sound system, the painting, the voting machines and one or two other items. She needed some direction or policy on how she was to inventory now. During the interim, most of the offices are locked. Some committee rooms are used by the public, and invariably when she returns the next session, things are gone and she has to buy replacements.

They have a number of the old oak chairs that are about 100 years old. She has those all tagged. They are worth at least \$200 or more.

She offered to continue with the current, in-house inventory on hard furniture items. She would not do coffee pots, vertical files, etc.

SEN. WATERMAN wanted to know what happens when things are missing. **Ms. Cramer** said an inventory would show what was missing. Without an inventory, they don't know what is or isn't missing.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA asked how much work and time does an inventory require. **Ms. Cramer** stated they do it at the beginning

of the session. This time they did not as they were busy moving in. They would do it at the end of the session after everyone has gone. It takes about a week. There are four people involved.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES said the committee would like them to inventory the items since it didn't seem to be that time consuming.

Ms. Cramer informed the committee that, after the renovation, much of the furniture was missing and some was just simply destroyed. If those things had not been inventoried, they wouldn't have known about it. Insurance didn't cover it because it had been eighteen months earlier and they didn't know if the damage was done by the transfer people or if it happened in storage in the federal building. Also, if there were a fire, the legislature should know what to file a claim for. Senate property is stamped with a gold foil sticker that shows State of Montana, SENATE, and an inventory number by category.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES inquired about the new desks on the senate floor. They don't have any names on the desks. He wanted to know if the committee wanted to have a policy concerning people putting their names in the desks.

SEN. WATERMAN said let people sign the desks. She asked what happened to the old desks.

Ms. Skelton said they were stored in the basement of Shodair. There were seventeen people out of fifty that returned the slip saying they wanted their old desk.

Lois Menzies, Legislative Staff said the desks cannot be sold. They can be sold at a public auction only. Legislation could be introduced to allow the senators to purchase them.

SEN. COCCHIARELLA said that the desk drawers should be preserved. There are names in those drawers that have a great deal of historical value.

Ms. Cramer stated that she had asked the Historical Society if they wanted the desks. They said no.

CHAIRMAN GRIMES proposed that a person get a plaque, sign that and put it inside the desk.

SEN. WATERMAN said as long as a person signed on the inside of the drawer, let it be.

SEN. BECK felt that for the senators to sign is one thing, but for the public to sign is another. He did not see how to stop people from signing if they really were bent on doing so.

HEARING ON SB 419

Sponsor: SEN. DUANE GRIMES, SD 20, CLANCY

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. DUANE GRIMES, SD 20, CLANCY. Senate Bill 419 is the Committee Bill. This relates to the Legislative Intern Program. The issue was what the daily allowance should be. Should it be at the legislators' rate or something else. The fee arrived at is \$50. Students can be interns as a sophomore at a two or four year secondary institution.

There could be up to ten interns that could be at a session. This could come to \$55,000 on the fiscal note. He had a concern in judiciary committee because three attorneys are being termed out as is the chairman, **SEN. LORENTS GROSFIELD**. He has been working with the committee secretary and with Beth Furbush of the Legislative Branch. One thing that could be done is to find out what the policy issues were on a particular section of statute in previous sessions. The issues could be on a child protective issue or trespass issue. Looking at previous hearing notes could be very helpful. The legal intent could be captured in this way.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Lois Menzies informed the committee that a fiscal note has been attached to the bill. The amount is \$55,000. That is ten interns at \$50 a day for 110 days equaling \$55,000. One hundred ten days combines the 90 days plus Sundays. It is the same number of days that legislators receive per diem.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATERMAN wanted to know if the seven university units, the college of technology and the three community colleges and tribal schools and private schools were to be included.

Ms. Menzies stated that ten students would be eligible. That did not mean there would be one intern from every institution. This

session there is one intern. Last session there were a couple in the program.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATERMAN wanted to know if Legislative Council would interview how many students.

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Ms. Menzies said the President of an institution may nominate only one intern who would be eligible for the per diem allowance. If this bill were to pass, the Legislative Council budget, Program 21, would be increased by \$55,000. If that money is inadequate to cover the interns, should there would be twenty interns, the money would have to be found somewhere else.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATERMAN asked if the Council budget is approved after the session begins. **Ms. Menzies** said this amount would have to be in the feed bill.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATERMAN stated that the feed bill is approved when the legislature comes in, but Legislative Council is going to have hired so many interns in October/November. How are they going to know whether they are hiring five, ten or fifteen. There are seventeen institutions. **Ms. Menzies** said the timing is perfect because in October/November, they will know how many interns will be participating. By law, the legislature is required to finance one intern from each institution. So the feed bill this time around was put together in December, presented and approved early in the session. They would know in advance.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATERMAN did not read the bill as saying there will be one from each institution. It states no more than one from each institution. **Ms. Menzies** said there is another statute that is not in this bill that talks about the nomination procedure. It states that each post-secondary educational unit may, through the president, nominate, and that in effect allows for one student from each institution.

SEN. COCCHIARELLA said that the number ten came up because another law states what institutions are included. The University of Montana-Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, Northern at Havre, Western at Dillon, Montana Tech or state funded two year post-secondary institution. Private college, private education or privately controlled college may also establish an internship program.

SEN. GRIMES then stated that it could cost \$93,500 for seventeen interns. He further stated that a potential use of the interns

could be for the chairman of committees. Leadership would have to resolve any questions or problems as to where the interns would work. There would have to be an allocation of the interns. If there were ten interns, six could go to the majority party and four to the minority party.

SEN. COCCHIARELLA said that just because the bill is coming from the Senate side of the house, the interns would be for both houses.

Ms. Menzies offered that the interns are assigned to legislators by which the Council would choose statutorily. Legislative Council would, in September, October or November, make the assignment.

SEN. HARRINGTON said that he had interns in his first three or four sessions. Montana Tech had an intern and that intern worked with the Butte delegation. Montana Tech chose who they wanted to work with.

SEN. GRIMES felt that to convince the colleges and universities to give more credit for this experience, there should be more structure than just assigning them to a delegation. The Legislative Council could come up with a list of duties or a job description. One could be a judiciary committee aide and one could be a minority leadership research aide.

SEN. WATERMAN thought that the legislators who desired an intern could put in an application for one and be matched up.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. GRIMES closed.

HEARING ON SR 18

Sponsor: **SEN. TOM BECK, SD 28, DEER LODGE**

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. TOM BECK, SD 28, DEER LODGE. He presented SR 18 for **SEN. KEN MILLER**, who was unable to be at the hearing. The resolution

would abolish the Bills and Journals Committee which does nothing and requires the Chairman to stand every day on the Senate floor to request the Senate adopt a committee report. The Bills and Journals Committee is redundant and accomplishes nothing.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. BECK closed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 18

Motion/Vote: **SEN. HARRINGTON** moved that **SR 18 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 419

SEN. BECK said that a fiscal note should be ready before it is presented on the Senate floor.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. GRIMES** moved that **SB 419 DO PASS**. Motion carried 4-1 with Beck voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:00 P.M.

SEN. DUANE GRIMES, Chairman

MARY GAY WELLS, Secretary

DG/MW

EXHIBIT (les33aad)